

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed May 12, 2009. Claims 2-4 and 13-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter from claims 2-4. Claims 1 and 5-12 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are requested for the following reasons.

I. Specification

The specification is objected to because the description of Figure 13 references itself. This issue was addressed by amending the specification in the Amendment filed January 9, 2008. Reconsideration and removal of the objection are therefore requested.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischell (U.S. Patent No. 5,545,143). This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested for the following reasons.

The correctness of the rejection is not conceded. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from claim 4. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as any claims that depend therefrom, are therefore requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 4 is noted as being allowable, and claims 9-12 are noted as being allowed. The Examiner's assistance in identifying allowable subject matter is appreciated. All claims are in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

Favorable consideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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/Robert A. Kalinsky/
Name: Robert A. Kalinsky
Reg. No.: 50,471